

Town of Vernon
Hockanum River Linear Park Committee
Minutes – January 24, 2014

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Present: Members: Ann Letendre, Ginny Gingras, Joe King; Bruce Dinnie, Staff Advisor

14 JAN 27 AM 8:44

The meeting was held at the Lottie Fisk Building, South St. and was called to order at 9:45 am by Chairman Ann Letendre.

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of November, 2013 meeting were approved. Motion by King, second by Gingras.

2. Old Business

A. Hockanum River Trail Reports

- a. Refer to Arthur and Bellingham reports (attached) for details

B. Review of needs – Hockanum River Parks and Parking Areas

- a. Refer to Arthur and Bellingham reports (attached).

Dart Hill South to Lyman – no activity; Joe reports that the trail needs to be re-routed on a section of the trail directly off Dart Hill Rd; a section of bridge needs to be moved work will be done in spring/summer.

Dart Hill North to WPCA – no activity (check on broken parking lot fence on Dart Hill Rd)

Walgreen Corner – no activity

Saxony Mill Park – no activity

Paper Mill Pond – no activity

West Main Street – no activity

Phoenix St Dam – no activity

Other Areas - none

C. Current Projects – Status

- a. Report – Friends HRLP Rec Trails Grant for Bridge and Boardwalk Grant

Ann reported that Laurie Giannotti from DEEP spoke to several people in DEEP about the floodway regulation requirements that Jay Silva, engineer, identified, resulting in costs of over \$300,000 for the bridge. Unfortunately, she says that we will have to comply with the regulations. She said the DEEP civil engineer, Sharon Yurasevecz, visited the site and verified the requirement. Sharon has offered to meet at the site with the committee to explain the problem Tuesday afternoon, January 28th. The HRLP Committee consensus is that the cost estimates from Jay Silva are too expensive and don't make sense for a walking trail; alternate routes to connect the trail to Ellington will be looked explored.

At the last meeting there was concern about ownership of the railbed. George Arthur examined the records in Town Hall and confirmed that the Town owns the railbed in Vernon.

No action on the boardwalk as yet.

D. Potential Projects and New Grant Applications –

1. Rec. Trails Application – P&R Blueways Trail: Bruce reported no notification of awards as yet.

2. Larson Blueways Committee: Ann reported that the federal Blueways program was canceled, and that no new US rivers will be named as blueways. So, the CT River will remain as the one and only Blueway in the US. No further activity in regard to Rep. John Larson's committee.

3. Paper Mill Pond – Ann noted that a car dealership on Paper Mill Pond has submitted an application to IWC to move the business to Rt 83. It is not known what the owner intends to do on the PM Pond property if he moves, but the committee noted that creating greenspace on the pond would be a big plus for the area if the land became available for sale. See also item 3 below.

E. River Protection: Actions, Public Education – No activity.

3. New Business –

a. Ed Dresner Memorial – Bruce would like to install the bench now. A ceremony will be arranged in late spring

b. EPA Brownfields grant: The Town has submitted a grant to EPA for brownfields assessment; the HRLP committee and the Friends HRLP submitted letters of support. The grant includes the site at 19 Grove St, on Paper Mill Pond.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am, motion by Ginny, second by Joe.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Letendre, Chairperson

GEORGE ARTHUR REPORT

November 15, 2013 to January 24, 2014

No activity

VERNON GREENWAYS VOLUNTEERS REPORT – Don Bellingham

November 15, 2013 to January 24, 2014

Sponsor Renewal

Renewals are scattered throughout the year but heaviest concentration is in this time frame. Of the nine Trail Sponsors contacted all have renewed for 2014. Of the four Project Sponsors contacted, so far, all but one has renewed for 2014.

Volunteer and Trail Manager Re-up

To keep membership current in January each year I ask the Trail Managers to confirm they want to continue in that capacity and Volunteers in general to reaffirm they want to continue to receive correspondence for the new year. If I don't hear back from them by February 1, their name is removed from the mailing list. To-date I have heard back from 31 of the 49 general Volunteers population that they would like to continue to receive e-mail. A reminder will be sent one week prior to the Feb 1 term date to the 18 which have not as yet responded. Of the eighteen Trail Managers notified three have moved out of town and a fourth is no longer physically able to function in that capacity. The remaining fourteen have agreed to continue.